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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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ROMANIA

Ceausescu Speaks to Writers

Unlike other peoples in Eastern Europe, Romanians continue to revel in the glories of the past and to emphasize their unique cultural and political heritage. President Ceausescu is setting the stage for another outpouring of national pride and a reaffirmation of Romanian independence, as Bucharest prepares for the country's 30th anniversary of liberation on August 23, and the 11th party congress on November 25.

Accompanied by five top party advisors, Ceausescu attended a meeting of Romanian writers and editors on August 7. He urged those gathered to be "more daring... in broaching the major problems of socialist reality and in portraying the glorious traditions of the RCP and the Romanian people..." His remarks appeared designed to produce a torrent of articles this summer and fall to coincide with the anniversary celebrations and party congress in November.

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Soviets Warn Romanians

While Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu is in China, the Soviets have broadcast a Romanian-language commentary containing an implied warning to Bucharest about its maverick policies. The broadcast touches on a variety of bilateral problems, including Romania's alleged lack of gratitude for "all" the Soviet Union has done for it.

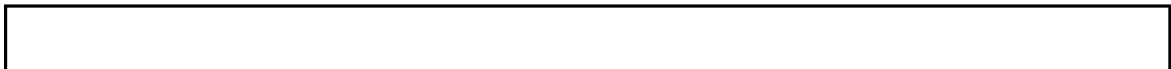
The commentator repeatedly returns to the subject of high-level Soviet-Romanian meetings, which he describes as being of "great importance" in outlining the main directions of cooperation. Ceausescu and Brezhnev last met in Warsaw in April, and there are no indications of an impending meeting between the two leaders, who do not get along well. By contrast, Hungary's Kadar and Czechoslovakia's Husak have recently met Brezhnev.

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On the subject of Soviet-East European cooperation, the broadcast lashes out at bourgeois and Maoist propaganda for claiming that this cooperation is not based on equality of rights. On the contrary, according to the broadcast, the Hungarians, Poles, Bulgars and Romanians (there is no mention of Czechoslovaks or East Germans) have never had so much real independence and sovereignty.

The final quarter of the commentary emphasizes Soviet cooperation with Hungary, particularly in the field of energy. It stresses that Hungary, "with its small territory, was not very lucky" but has been able to proceed with its industrial development thanks to reliable assurances from other socialist countries to provide it with needed sources of energy. Moscow's decision to emphasize the Hungarian example may have been intended to:

- needle the Romanians, who have a long-standing dispute with Hungary over Transylvania which has energy resources; and,
- to show the Romanians, who are interested in obtaining natural resources from the Soviets, an example of the advantages to be gained by a more cooperative stand in the bloc.



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